

PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE

Puget Sound Partnership BIOGRAPHIES

Chris Gregoire — As Washington's 22nd Governor, Chris Gregoire believes that Washington is well positioned to be the national leader in creating positive environmental solutions, promoting businesses that create clean energy, and developing products that don't pollute our air and water. She is committed to delivering this future for the new, cleaner economy of our state. Prior to serving as Governor, Gregoire served three terms as Attorney General – the first woman to be elected to the position in Washington. While director of the Washington Department of Ecology, Gregoire negotiated the safe cleanup and permanent storage of radioactive wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The site is regarded as the largest environmental cleanup project in the world.

William Ruckelshaus — William "Bill" Ruckelshaus is chairman of the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which provides grants to protect and restore salmon habitat. Ruckelshaus is also a member of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which is helping bring attention to the importance of protecting and restoring saltwater areas, including Puget Sound, that are important to salmon recovery and a range of cultural, economic, and quality-of-life interests, e.g., shellfish harvest and the tourism industry. He co-founded the Shared Strategy process, the framework within which Puget Sound area watersheds are preparing groundbreaking plans for recovering harvestable and sustainable populations of salmon across the Puget Sound region, and is Chair of its Development Committee. Ruckelshaus became the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's first Administrator when the agency was formed in December 1970, where he served until April 1973.

Norm Dicks (D-Wash.) — Congressman Norm Dicks was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. The environment has always been a high priority for Dicks, who has served on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during his entire tenure in Congress. Dicks has been instrumental in obtaining federal funding to address problems in Puget Sound, and specifically, Hood Canal. He also worked with the Clinton-Gore Administration to bring federal assistance to the West Coast states to address the listings of threatened salmon runs.

Ron Sims — Ron Sims was appointed King County Executive in 1996 and was elected to office the following year. During his two terms as County Executive, Sims has established a strong record of environmental protection. An ardent conservationist, Sims has protected more than 100,000 acres of green space in King County since 1997. He also won regional praise and national recognition for his leadership in a three-county effort to restore the runs of the prized Chinook salmon, declared threatened by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1999.

Bill Taylor — Bill Taylor is Vice President of Taylor Shellfish Farms, headquartered in Shelton on South Puget Sound. Taylor Shellfish has farms up and down the state and is one of the largest shellfish companies in the country. Taylor's family has been growing oysters for more than 110 years. In 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded Taylor Shellfish its Excellence in Business Leadership Award in Coastal and Ocean Resource Management.

Billy Frank, Jr. — Billy Frank, Jr. of the Nisqually Indian Tribe has been Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for 22 years. In this capacity he "speaks for the salmon" on behalf of the 19 Treaty Indian Tribes in Western Washington. Frank has been a longtime proponent of Indian fishing rights and has been at the forefront of developing a cooperative, balanced approach to environmental protection. In 2004, Indian Country Today awarded Frank the inaugural American Indian Visionary Award.

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Kathy Fletcher — Kathy Fletcher is the Executive Director and founder of People for Puget Sound, a citizens' group working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits through education and action. She was the founding chair of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority (now the Puget Sound Action Team), where she served from 1985 to 1990. She is currently Chair of the Northwest Straits Commission and a member of the executive committee of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership. In August 2005, Kathy was appointed by Gov. Gregoire to the state's recently established Oil Spill Advisory Council.

Mark Emmert, Ph.D. — Mark Emmert is president of the University of Washington, his alma mater. He has served as president of the university since June 14, 2004. He previously worked as Chancellor at Louisiana State University and Chancellor and Provost at the University of Connecticut. Emmert is co-chair of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' Board of Oceans and Atmosphere.

Mike Shelby — Mike Shelby is the Executive Director of the Western Washington Agricultural Association, which works on behalf of the agricultural community to seek out and develop future opportunities for agriculture. Shelby comes from a farming family and has spent more than 25 years working in the vegetable and fruit processing business in the Pacific Northwest. He is a member of the Skagit Watershed Council and the Development Committee for the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound.

Colin Moseley — As Chairman of Green Diamond Resource Company and Simpson Investment Company, Colin Moseley represents the fifth generation of family ownership. Headquartered in Seattle, Green Diamond is one of the region's oldest forest products firms. In addition to running the family business, Colin is on the board of the American Forest & Paper Association, which represents 90 percent of industrial forestland in the U.S., and is a director of its Sustainable Forestry Board. The Board was formed in an effort to enhance environmental protection and foster sustainable forestry at the national and international levels. He is also on the Board of the Nature Conservancy and is immediate past Chair of the Washington Roundtable.